

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1, 3-4, 7-10, 12-14 and 16-22 are pending in the application, where claims 2, 5-6, 11 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Office Action, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of furthering the prosecution and expediting allowance of the present Application, claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. The cancellation of claim 15 renders moot this rejection with regard to these claims. The cancellation of claim 15 renders moot this rejection with regard to these claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of copending Application No. 10/510,261. The Examiner indicated that a terminal disclaimer may be used to overcome this rejection. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of furthering the prosecution and expediting allowance of the present Application, a terminal disclaimer included herein. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

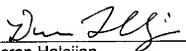
In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 6 and 18-19 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 6 which has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. Further independent claims 10, 13-17 and 20-22 have been amended/added to include features similar to allowable claims 6 and 18.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 10 and 13-14, 16-18 and 20-22 are allowable. In addition, claims 3-4, 7-9, 12 and 19 are

allowable at least because they depend from independent claims 1, 10 and 18, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Dicran Halajian
Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Phone: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101

Enclosure: Terminal Disclaimer